

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

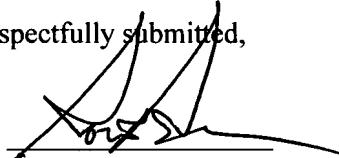
Upon entry of the instant amendment, claims 1-20 are pending. Claim 1 and 10 have been amended to more clearly and particularly point out the scope of the invention.

Claims 1, 2, 10 and 11 have been rejected under 35 USC s 102(b) as being anticipated by Adachi, et al. (US Patent No. 5,170,081), claims 1-4 and 10-14 have been rejected as being anticipated by Sacca (US Patent No. 6,427,001) and claims 1-7 and 10-18 have been rejected as being anticipated by Funke (US Patent No. 5,646,810). Claims 8, 9, 19 and 20 have been rejected under 35 USC s 103(a) as being unpatentable over Funke in view of Kladar, et al. (US Patent No. 6,226,162).

It is respectfully submitted that the claims as amended are not taught, suggested or implied by the cited references, either singly or in combination. Furthermore, applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's references in fact highlight the novelty and non-obvious nature of applicant's invention. In particular, it can be seen that in each and every one of the references, the devices that purport to block current or reduce noise have one thing in common. Namely, the devices are not only electrically connected to ground, but to at least one or more power lines as well.

Applicant's device, on the other hand, electrically isolates the noise reduction circuitry so that it is NEVER in electrical contact with any power line and yet continues to function in its intended manner to reduce hum and unwanted electrical noise. Thus, it can be seen that the references actually teach away from applicant's invention.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
By 
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